

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 254

By McCormick

A RESOLUTION to commend Mayor Claude Ramsey of Hamilton county for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Claude Ramsey, Mayor of Hamilton County, is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Hamilton County, Mr. Ramsey graduated from Hamilton County public schools and the University of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as both a self-employed farmer and businessman, Claude Ramsey has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ramsey was elected Hamilton County Executive in 1994, and his current term will expire in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Claude Ramsey served with acumen and alacrity as the Hamilton County Assessor of Property from 1980 to 1994, on the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners from 1978 to 1980, as a delegate for the 1977 State of Tennessee Limited Constitutional Convention, and as a two-term state representative for both the 88<sup>th</sup> and 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly from 1972 to 1976; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Claude Ramsey holds the distinction of being the original Chairman of the Chattanooga State Technical Community College Foundation, and served as Chairman of its Board of Associates from 1977 to 1991; he was also on the initial Board of Directors for the Highway 58 Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, he served on the Board of Trustees for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Hospital Authority's Erlanger Hospital from 1976 to 1978, and on the Board of Directors for both the Hamilton County Farm Bureau from 1975 to 1977, and Orange Grove Center for the Mentally Retarded from 1975 to 1978; and

WHEREAS, he has lent his time and considerable talents to the Chattanooga Jaycees, Harrison Ruritan, and as president of the Harrison Jaycees; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mayor Claude Ramsey has been the recipient of a host of honors for his notable achievements, including the 2005 Southern Health Association Outstanding Legislator Award, the 2004 Robert M. Wormsley Outstanding County Official of the Year Award, the 2004 National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials Outstanding Public Official Award, the 2004 Tech 2020 Vision Award, the 2004 Tennessee Wildlife Federation's Air Conservationist of the Year Award, and the 2002 Tennessee Public Health Association Partners and Leadership Award; he was also named the Chattanooga Area Manager of the Year for 2003, and won the International Association of Assessing Officers National Award and Distinguished Jurisdiction Award for Excellence in the area of Personal Property in 1983, and the Donehoo Essay Award for Exempt Properties in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Ramsey held the position of president of the County Officials Association of Tennessee in 1983, secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Association of Assessing Officials in 1982, member of the State Board of Equalization from 1981 to 1989, and chairman of the Committee on Food Supply and Natural Resources for the National Association of State Legislatures; he received the Harrison Jaycees Distinguished Service Award in 1973, and the Chattanooga Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer Award in 1967 and in 1969; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Claude Ramsey's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Claude Ramsey is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Jan Ramsey, their two children, Rich and Stacy, and five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Ramsey is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people who life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Claude Ramsey is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the Honorable Claude Ramsey for his many contributions and accomplishments as Mayor of Hamilton County, as a self-employed farmer and businessman, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause committed from such copy.